

A BACKWARD COUNTRY TRY

PROFESSOR W. M. Bickerton, who was arrested in Tokyo last March in connection with the Communist movement, recently gave the Manchester Guardian a full account of his treatment in a Tokyo police cell. The barbaric methods of the Tokyo police which were used in an effort to extract a confession, are described by the British professor in an article which is reproduced in full on this page. In addition the Guardian made the following editorial comment:

"Mr. W. M. Bickerton's account of the treatment by the Japanese police, is a classical case of third degree methods such as are familiar in backward countries, in countries that have reverted to mediaeval barbarism, and in countries like the United States where the line between police and criminal is not always distinct. But even among third degree records the Bickerton case stands out because the police were not dealing with a gangster or a homicide, but with a quiet academic person whose only alleged offense was the harboring of dangerous thoughts and extremely indirect participation in Communist activities. The Japanese authorities profess to be so sensitive to British opinion and so jealous of their good name for justice and fair dealing that the British Government has every reason for following up the case and demanding an apology and recompense. Mr. Bickerton's story speaks for itself. It is necessary, however, to add that his arrest and imprisonment were carried out in secret, that all information was withheld from his friends, that the Japanese press were put under embargo not to mention the case, and that two newspapers published in English—one in Tokyo and the other in London—did dare to refer to the case and to the manner in which it was handled. Mr. Bickerton's account is setting in train with the British Government and the Japanese Government and the Japanese press are clamoring for his release. With what the Japanese do in their own country we are not acquainted."

The indictment of the Japanese authorities by the Guardian is in line with liberal opinion in all civilized countries. Even in Japan itself there are individuals, as a rule not those in positions of authority, who are conscious of the serious defects in the Japanese police system. The records show the most ridiculous performances on the part of the island empire police, a few weeks ago who even compelled a Japanese complainant to admit that he was trying to hoax the police when he reported that he had been robbed, but unfortunately for the police the real culprit was later caught and his offense proved beyond any possibility of a doubt. In another case last year, the Japanese police subjected a young Japanese woman to indecencies in order to compel her to admit her part in suspected "dangerous thought" activities. The case was noted in the Japanese press at the time when the girl with her mind partly unbiassed as a result of her treatment attempted to commit suicide.

It has been the opinion of those who know Japan that the numerous recantations of imprisoned communists in that country are the direct result of third degree methods rather than of genuine conversions. That the police of Japan are in many instances extremely brutal and stupid seems undeniable on the basis of the evidence that has been published in the Japanese press.

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BY W. M. DICKERTON

There is an editorial discussion of this case on this page.

In prison, conditions as I experienced them were very different and I have no complaints to make, except, of course, to say that the food is not suitable for Europeans. The jailers were all decent to me, and the one especially in charge of me, Ito, could not have been more kind.

In the preliminary hearing of my case, Judge Twiss afforded me every kindness, and I have no complaints to make - except, to say that when I told him how the police had treated me he displayed not the slightest interest.

The police examination was conducted by two plain-clothes police officers, Richard Ogawara and Sgt. [redacted] at each place of police headquarters.

During the second day's debriefing (on March 14), "Casper" testified that I had probably been subjected to torture from my last wife, because that I would not fear arrest if I was arrested as I would never be forced to say anything. The next morning the Chief of the Foreign Section of the Headquarters came to the room and said, "I hear that you were taken to Communist Headquarters." I said, "Yes." He then stated that since I had given up all hope of being released from the prison, he offered me a "contract" to work as a spy against the law I wanted to work against the Soviet Union. I said, "Yes." He then stated that I would be given a "contract" to work as a spy against the law I wanted to work against the Soviet Union. I said, "Yes."

I shouted again and again that I had never admitted anything, and that if ever I did it would be with more than a nod. They were both licensed, or pretended to be, and passed every kind of abuse on me.

Kicks And Blows

When finally they saw that I maintained my denial they went on to another point and worked out with me how I spent my monthly salary of 300 yen. After writing down all items there was still a surplus of about two hundred yen which I did not know how I spent. Ogasawara wrote down the figures 300 yen on paper, telling me to stare at them until I remembered. For some minutes I stared at the figures in silence in spite of their demands for an answer. Then Suga lost his temper and stamped on my toes. When I winced, he said, "Oh! So you are a human being after all, you can feel pain. Then answer." My continued silence caused him to start kicking me on the leg, smacking my face, and punching me on the ear. Finally, turning to Ogasawara, he said, "It's no use being gentle with this beast ('chikuwahe')." and going out of the room soon returned with a baseball bat. "It's six years since I used this. I'm a bit out of practice" he smiled. He made me sit up straight on the chair, asked the question once more, and when I did not answer gave me a crack across both legs above the knees with the bat. The question was repeated again and again each time with a blow on the leg or thigh. Suga continued to hit me half-heartedly for some time until finally they finished up the day's examination at about 3.30 p.m.

The next examination started at 11 a.m. the next day (March 22). The first part was plain sailing, being a recitation of family circumstances, names, parents of children in the Japanese revolutionary movement, the publication of articles in any translations of Japanese revolutionary journals in English, literature, etc. About 1 p.m. the assistant chief of the consulate to carry right or till he came back from dinner.

[illegible]

At last I answered at random "Six times" and he gave me a pencil to write down details of each "report." I said I could not remember the details, so Sugar kicked me, marked my face, punched me many times to help my memory, so he said. When the beating left me only bare skin, Cassius said he would promise to stop the examination for the night if I would just give the address of the person I sent the reports to in England. I gave an address, which he wrote down, and then I stood up to go home. "Oh, no, not yet. I only said I would not press that point any more tonight. Now we go on to another point. This was the only time during the whole examination that I felt absolutely desperate.

They then began pressing me as to who had given me "Sekki" (the "Red Flag"). About this time the Assistant Chief in kimono came back. They reported satisfactory progress. He gave them permission to finish up for the night when I had answered who had given me the paper. He said to me: "Come, on, don't waste time, anything will do as long as it's an answer. Where did you get 'Senki' from? Man, woman, boy, girl, dog, cat; picked up in the street?" Like a hypnotised person I answered "Man". "A Japanese man?" "Yes". "His name?" "I can't tell. At night."

He then came over to me and half-affectionately, half-threateningly, curled his arm around my neck saying, "You are a decent chap in many ways. I wonder when you'll say the name. It was Matsumoto, wasn't it?" I did not answer and he continued: "I'm afraid these methods alone won't get it out of you. We'll have to get someone to give you some of this," and playfully he pretended to throttle me, uttering a strange sound of "Gurr, gurr" each time he jerked his arm. Then he took some paper from his kimono sleeve and kindly wiped my sweaty face, as he said to the others, "We'll have to get that other fellow (sister) to bring him up from the road and give him something, and then perhaps he'll talk."

The next day there was no examination, but on Thursday, March 23, when I was brought to headquarters, I told O'Connell that I wanted to retract what I had said at the last examination, as my friends had been so confident that I had let myself be persuaded into saying anything. He answered that I need not do so. He said that my friends had not confidence, he said, was that on that night I still doubted the important charge. However, he wanted me to retract certain statements.

On Friday, March 1, 1940, The British
Government announced that it had received
information from the German Government
that the German Government had decided
to evacuate the German children in
England and to return them to Germany.
The British Government had decided
to accept the German offer and to
allow the German children to return
to Germany.

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[Signature]

were still at the same point, but the examination was transferred to the Chief's spacious room as he went home. They said they were both tired and wanted to get home to their families, but it was obvious that the Assistant Chief had told them they must get an answer first. I could think of no more arguments to justify my refusal, so the atmosphere soon became tense. Suga went out of the room and came back with a bamboo fencing stick (shinai). Ogasawara locked the door and pulled down the blinds. Suga started whacking me with the stick across both legs above the knees. "From whom did you get them?" The question was repeated without any variations by both of them so many times that I thought something would snap in my mind. When Suga spoke they made me turn my head to the right to face him when I answered, and when Ogasawara spoke I had to face him. Each time they asked the question Suga beat me. He raised the stick above his head and brought it down with force. He always brought the stick down in the same

place, and I could not help wincing. During one lull I said to Ogasawara, "You said in front of the Consul yesterday that you never hit me, but what are you doing now?" But he gave no answer. As the blows were renewed my voice gave out and I just sat silent. Finally at 5:15 p.m. by the clock in the room, Suga sat down almost in a state of collapse. He shouted almost incoherently, "It's no good, it's no good. I can't get anything out of this brute." At 5:30 p.m. supper came. They ate theirs in a separate room from me. Then apparently they rang up the Assistant Chief at his home and got permission to go home, and I arrived back at the Kojimachi Police Station about 7 p.m. The next day both my legs were sore and bruised.

"If You Admit"

On Tuesday, March 27, I was brought face to face with a witness named Toshi Otsu. She said she knew me, but I denied knowing her. As the Assistant Chief led her out of the room, he gave me two ringing smacks across the face. I do not wish to exaggerate but really a little later when I was left alone with Ogasawara and Suga, they were both almost in a frenzy of rage. All the old threats and abuse were hurled at me again. Suga almost danced on my toes. He got his baseball bat and just hammered me on the right leg and thigh. He got me by the hair and banged my head again and again against a cupboard. They shouted again and again, "You do know her; you do know her," as Suga beat me. The pain in the leg was intense as he kept hitting in the same place as he had hit me on the Saturday, but I remained silent. Finally he threw himself on a chair exhausted and said, "He's too much for me, the brute."

A moment came that the Chief wanted to see me. He put before me two alternatives: if I admitted everything properly I could get off with detention; if I admitted nothing I would have to be imprisoned and kept at least a year in prison awaiting trial, during which time I would not be permitted to communicate with anyone. I asked for the day to consider my decision.

Next morning I determined to make a special effort to see the Consul. The right leg was swollen, but I tried not to limp, so that they would not suspect how bad it was. Ogasawara said the Chief was waiting for my answer. I parried by saying that I wanted to see the Consul first as my answer might vary after I had consulted him. This was not allowed, so I answered that I admitted nothing.

A "Hypothetical" Case

Shortly afterwards the Chief came into the room and said that he was not refusing to let me see the Consul but that he wanted first to know my reason for wanting to see him. I put forward various ones, all of which were deemed inadequate. I realized that they were not going to let me see him in my present state, so when he said: "Is there no other reason?" I answered: "Yes, there is. I wanted to ask him also whether according to Japanese law the police have the right to use force in their examination." The Assistant Chief, Ogasawara, and Suga were all present. Their faces wore the same expression of indignation as when I brought up the same subject in front of the Consul. They all wanted to speak at once.

The Chief said that he could answer my question, without my asking the Consul. He explained that force ("boryoku") should not be used but that men were not gods and police officers were men. When the prisoner was extremely obstinate and refused to admit obvious known facts the detectives naturally became tired and might on occasion lose their tempers. If such things had happened to me I was partly responsible.

Several times during the Chief's explanation of the law Ogasawara interrupted with the caution: "Remember, the Chief is not admitting you were beaten; he is only giving a hypothetical case." "I quite realize that," I answered.

What I finally met the Consul at the court it was exactly two weeks after the last beating, and the bruises had gone.

THE CHINA PRESS, SUNDAY, JULY 15, 1934

Escaped Briton Returns Home With Tall Tale

Bickerton Charges 3rd Degree Methods Used To Elicit Confessions

In connection with a report from London to the effect that William Maxwell Bickerton, formerly lecturer of the First High School in Tokyo, said in an interview with the Daily Telegraph upon his arrival in the British capital from Japan, where he had jumped bail after being examined by the Tokyo police on the charge of his subversive communist activities in Japan that he was kept in jail for six weeks and that he was manhandled by the Japanese police, Mr. Hisayasu, Chief of the Foreign Section of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board, told Rengo that the Britisher had never been subjected to grilling, since his conviction was firmly established. In fact he was to have been indicted formally on June 30, Mr. Hisayasu said.

Bickerton Charges Third Degree
LONDON, July 7.—(By Mail).—A charge that he was subjected to the third degree, including severe beatings, by the Japanese police in order to extort a confession of his participation in Communist activities was made by Mr. William M. Bickerton, former teacher of English in a Tokyo high school, in a half-column interview published by the Daily Telegraph here today.

Mr. Bickerton, who jumped bail and fled from Japan aboard a Canadian liner early last month, alleged in the interview that he had been imprisoned in Tokyo for six weeks without any formal charges being preferred against him.

He was arrested by the police because it was suspected that he was financially aiding Japanese Communists, whose organization he had himself joined.

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or S.B.

Information

JOB. 16/7.

Bickerton Seen At Vancouver After Escape

Communist Sympathizer
Who Jumped Bail May Go
To London Via Canada

Travels Across Pacific
On Empress Of Japan

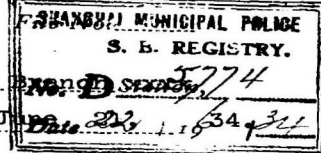
Mr. William M. Bickerton, former teacher at government schools in Tokyo who has been searched for by the police since his disappearance from his home at Chigasaki in Kanagawa Prefecture became known, jumped his bail and managed to get to Vancouver by the Empress of Japan according to information said to have been received in Tokyo.

The same information says that Mr. Bickerton is scheduled to leave Montreal for London by the Montcalm.

The former New Zealand teacher was bailed out by the British consul at Yokohama, Mr. E. Hamilton Holmes, after being detained as a sympathiser with the Japanese Communist Party.

FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.



REPORT

S. 2, Special

Date

Subject (in full) Movements of W. M. Bickerton.

Made by D. S. Umemoto.

Forwarded by

D. S. Umemoto

Regarding the telegram despatched to the Tokyo
Metropolitan Police by the local Japanese Consular Police
requesting particulars concerning W. M. Bickerton's movements,
the following reply has been received by the Consular Authorities:-

"Bickerton is believed to have left for Canada.

Investigations are proceeding."

D. S. Umemoto
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY.

REPORT

S.2, Special Branch No. D 5774

Date June 22, 1934

Subject (in full) Reported presence of W.M. Bickerton aboard the
s/s Empress of Canada en route from Japan.

Made by D.S.I. Golder

Forwarded by SBR S.I.

With reference to the arrest by the Tokyo Police of W.M. Bickerton, British subject, on charges of Communist activities.

It was learned that Bickerton intended coming to Shanghai aboard the s/s Empress of Canada which berthed at Holts Wharf, Pootung, at 5.45 p.m. on June 19. An examination of the passenger list was made and enquiries made of the purser but it was found that Bickerton was not a passenger.

Attached hereto will be found newspaper cuttings which relate to the movements of Bickerton.

Ern Golder

D. S. I.

The Jap. Authorities have cabled Japan requesting particulars regarding Bickerton's movements.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

SBR 206

S.S. Umemoto

SBR 216

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Bickerton Mysteriously Disappears

Enzeder Wanted As Red
In Japan Apparently
Not Aboard CPR Ship;
Detectives In Search

Rumors Fly As Big Boat
Docks, But All In Vain

Professor W. M. Bickerton, New Zealander suspected of radical activity in Japan, may be in Shanghai and then again he may not. If he is, he eluded a squadron of detectives and newspapermen who went yesterday afternoon on the tender for the Empress of Canada to find him. The party consisted of two foreign detectives, two Japanese detectives, one Chinese detective, all of the foregoing probably from the Shanghai Municipal Police, and a Japanese detective evidently from the Japanese Consular Police.

Stepping on the boat they hastily scanned the passenger list, jotted down a few names, and with the picture of Mr. Bickerton, which they carried with them, well in mind, made the rounds of the boat to try to find him. His name was not on the passenger list so it was a game of hide and seek, and to no avail. He could not be found. Officials of the boat had no knowledge of his passage, and in all probability Mr. Bickerton is still in Japan or is a very clever person.

A Sleek Man

There were rumors that Japanese Consular Police had stopped the boat at Wosung and had taken their prey with them, but this rumor proved groundless. There is also the possibility that Mr. Bickerton entered Shanghai on the Shanghai Ferry, which will arrive tomorrow, but this is also a possibility. It is also possible that he is still in Japan.

Allegedly A Red

Only 33 years old, Professor Bickerton has been lecturing since 1924 at the First High School, Tokyo, and at the Tokyo Prefectural High School. He is alleged to have donated sums to the Japanese Communist Party. In addition, he was charged with being the translator of Takiji Koyabashi's short stories "The Cannery Boat," which was published by International Publishers in New York City. Koyabashi, a leftist writer, was tortured and killed by Tokyo police for his radical activities, according to the biographical sketch of his life written in "The Cannery Boat." Japanese officials were particularly aroused that these stories, which deal with the

lives of Japanese workers, should get abroad.

Professor Bickerton was released on 200 yen bail after being held several weeks in detention.

Said En Route To Canada

TOKYO, June 19.—(Rengo).—Professor W. M. Bickerton, 33-year old New Zealander, who was released on bail late in April after having been held on a charge of Communist activities in Japan, is now on the Pacific Ocean en route to Canada and not on his way to Shanghai, Metropolitan Police Board officials believe.

The authorities said that they had reliable information that Prof. Bickerton was aboard the O. F. S. liner Empress of Japan that sailed from Yokohama for Vancouver via Honolulu June 8. They, however, declined to discuss the matter and the source of this information.

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Prof. Bickerton, Accused Of Communism, Missing

Believed He May Have Left Japan On Board The Empress Of Canada, Due In Shanghai
To-day; Police Investigations

TOKYO, June 18.—Professor W. M. Bickerton, the New Zealander who was released on bail in the sum of Y.200 towards the end of April, after having been under detention on a charge of Communistic activities in Japan, is reported to-day to be missing.

It is considered possible that he may be aboard the C.P.O.S. Empress of Canada, which is due to arrive at Shanghai to-morrow.

To Professor Bickerton goes the reputation of being the only foreigner ever arrested in Japan on a charge of being involved in Communistic activities.

The professor, a man of 33, has been lecturing since 1924 at the First High School, Tokyo, and at the Tokyo Prefectural High School.

He was taken to the Metropolitan Police Board on March 13 from his home in Kanagawa prefecture and was indicted on March 30.

Present To Reds

When he was given leave of absence in April, 1933, he is alleged to have given the Japanese Communist Party 300 yen out of the travelling expenses allowed him by the Government. On his return to Japan, he is said to have made a promise to give the Party 300 yen every month.

The Japanese police declare that the 500 yen contributed by Professor Bickerton "went a long way to help the Communists, in their strained financial conditions." They assert that when he was given leave of absence in April last year, he proceeded to Moscow instead of returning to New Zealand and that, during his three months stay in Europe, he visited Berlin and London.

While in London he is reported to have made arrangements to mail Communist publications which the Reds in Japan could not otherwise have obtained easily.

Professor Bickerton is further reported to have accepted an informal invitation to join the Japanese Communist Party in October last year, but before his membership could be confirmed, several of his prospective colleagues were arrested.

Grandfather Kropotkin's Friend?
According to the Japanese police, Professor Bickerton's grandfather was a friend of Kropotkin, the revolutionary leader, and himself established a Communistic community.

In August, 1924, he came to Japan and studied at the Tokyo Imperial University. After graduating, he was appointed professor of the First High School and concurrently was made lecturer at the Tokyo Prefectural High School, with a monthly salary of about 600 yen.—Reuter.

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BICKERTON ON WAY TO CANADA

Tokyo Police Believe He
Got Away On Empress
Of Japan

TOKYO, June 19.—Professor W. M. Bickerton, 33-year old New Zealander, who was released on bail late in April after having been held on a charge of communistic activities in Japan, is now on the Pacific Ocean en route to Canada and not on his way to Shanghai, Metropolitan Police Board officials believe.

The authorities said that they had reliable information that Prof. Bickerton was aboard the C.F.R. liner Empress of Japan that sailed from Yokohama for Vancouver via Honolulu on June 8. They, however, declined to disclose the nature and source of this information.

When Prof. Bickerton was first reported missing, the Kanagawa prefectural police, the foreign section of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board, and the political division of the Tokyo police immediately started a search, since the New Zealander was out of prison on 200 yen bail. The investigation led them to the belief that he had fled abroad.—Rengo.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
File No. <u>5774</u>
S. B. REGISTRY.
Date <u>29.1.34</u>

S. 2, Special Branch

REPORT

Date

Subject (in full) The "Lynch Case" of the Japanese Communist Party.

Made by D.S. Umemoto.

Forwarded by *J.B.K. S.I.*

I forward herewith a summarized translation of the so-called "Lynch Case" of the Japanese Communist Party published in the Osaka Mainichi Shimbun of May 22, 1934.

It will be recalled that W. M. Bickerton, a British subject, was arrested by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police on a charge of being concerned in this case.

Umemoto

D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

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JB*

The Osaka Mainichi Shimbun, dated May 22, 1934.

The "Lynch Case" of the Japanese Communist Party

On December 21, 1933, Yoshimi Ohgushi, a member of the Central Printing Bureau of the Japanese Communist Party, reported to the police to the effect that he had been detained at the residence of M. Tanaka, an assistant in the Kogyo University, in Akasaka District, Tokyo, and assaulted by communists. The Special Branch of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police immediately took up the matter and discovered that a member of the Japanese Communist Party named Tatsuo Ohata was murdered on the night of January 15 this year and that another member named Kanezo Oizumi and his mistress named Mitsuko Kumazawa had been assaulted. The police arrested all the parties concerned in the red terrorism and others who had participated in the movement for the re-establishment of the party. Subsequent arrests and searches made by the police revealed the fact that a plot had been drawn up to attack the Kojimachi Police Station to effect the release of one Miyamoto, a member of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party. In view of the serious nature of the case, a ban on the publication of newspaper reports relating to the case was ordered by the police on January 21. On April 2, Masanosuke Akisasa was arrested in Shinjuku. Satomi Hakamada is the only member of the Central Committee who is still at large. The ban was lifted on May 22 following the successful arrest of most of the ringleaders. Up to May 10, 736 persons including 134 women were arrested. Of this number 53 persons have already been charged, while 10 % of the remaining persons, excluding those concerned in the lynch case, will be charged when the investigations into the case have been concluded.

The wholesale arrests made by the police in October, 1932 were responsible for the dissolution of the so-called "Emergency Communist Party" under the guidance of Takekichi

Kazama and others. In January, 1933, Masami Yamamoto, an agent of the Comintern, returned to Japan and in co-operation with Yeitaro Noro, Naohel Taniguchi and Heiji Yamashita, he undertook the work of re-establishing the Central Committee of the Party. Their activities were frustrated in May, 1933, by the arrest of the leaders, with the exception of Yeitaro Noro. This individual consulted with Kenji Miyamoto and Shigeo Henmi (with whom he had been associated when they all were working at the Industrial Labour Inquiry Bureau) to organize a secretariat for the Central Committee of the Party. They commenced functioning under the title of "The Central Party". A member of the former Central Organization Department named Shigeju Matsuo said to Noro that it was a great mistake to allow the leadership of the re-established party to be placed in the hands of persons who were connected with the Industrial Labour Inquiry Bureau and that such a party could not be regarded as a genuine communist party; it was, in reality, an industrial labour communist party. Matsuo claimed that this mistake be rectified immediately and a proper party be organized. Matsuo then asked his comrades Kenzo Oizumi (the victim of the lynch case) and Tatsuo Ohata (victim of the assault) to support his claim and again requested Noro to follow his advice. Noro dismissed Miyamoto and organized a new secretariat of the central committee of which Noro became the chairman and Henmi, Koizumi and Ohata members. Thus deprived of his position as a member of the Secretariat, Kenji Miyamoto harboured bitter enmity towards Matsuo, Koizumi and Ohata and organized an opposition party with Masanosuke Akisasa, Kishima and Satomi Hakamada.

Miyamoto submitted to Noro a proposal for the purification of the party but Noro tried his best to pacify Miyamoto for fear of creating trouble between the intelligent

class and the labour class of the party. He was looked upon as a safety valve between the two classes. After his arrest on December 28, 1933, at the Oshiage Station the unification of the party was much disturbed. Miyamoto and Akisasa, in conjunction with Henmi, began to plan to organize a separate central committee, whereupon the opposition between the two parties became more critical.

The police have adopted drastic measures and arrested many persons holding important positions. Among the arrested persons are the following:-

Masami Yamamoto, Chairman of the Central Committee, arrested on May 1.

Naohei Taniguchi, Chief Editor of the Central Committee, arrested on May 2.

Heiji Yamashita, Chief of the Organization Department of the Central Committee, arrested on May 2.

Shigeji Matsuo, Member of the Central Organization Department, arrested on August 5.

Sadao Hiraga, Member of the Central Organization Department, arrested on October 10.

Hasoji Kazehaya, Chief of the Information Bureau, arrested on November 11.

Yeitaro Noro, Chairman of the Central Committee, arrested on November 28.

So Ki Shun (Korean), Chief of the Propaganda Department, arrested on December 6.

The Miyamoto Party regarded the action by the police as the best means of ruining the opposition party and planned to secure the leadership by force. A red lynch party was organized by Miyamoto, Kishima, Akisasa and Henmi to carry out their plan of brutal terrorism.

Masanosuke Akisasa rented a house at 207/2 Moto Machi, Hatakaya, Shinuya District, on December 15 and lived with Suzuko Mimata as his house-keeper. On December 23, Oizumi and Ohata were invited to attend a conference to be held at a tea-shop in Asakusa. Miyamoto and Henmi proceeded to the meeting place and returned to the premises occupied by Akisasa accompanied by Oizumi and Ohata. As Oizumi was

going upstairs, Miyamoto suddenly seized him from behind and ordered him to be quiet because they desired to examine him. Akisasa and Kishima tied Oizumi's legs with wire and fastened his hands. After he had been blindfolded and gagged, they wrapped his head with a piece of cloth. Miyamoto, Akisasa and Kimura then beat Oizumi with sticks and when Oizumi lost consciousness he was removed to a store-room.

Ohata, who had been tied up in a similar manner, was then brought into the room and beaten to death. On the morning of December 25, a hole was dug underneath the floor and the body of Ohata was buried in it by Akisasa and Kishima.

On December 24, Oizumi recovered consciousness but was again assaulted. As Oizumi could not stand the torture he asked to be allowed to commit suicide. This request was granted on condition that he would write a note favourable to the party. On the night of January 14, Oizumi and his house-keeper named Mitsuko Kumazawa, who had also been unlawfully detained, were removed to the residence of Kishima in Meguro **Machi**. Here Oizumi and Kumazawa were to have been lynched on the night of January 15 but the premises were raided by the police that afternoon and the arrests were made.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
File No. S. B. REGISTRY.
5774
Date May 25 1934

S. 2, Special Branch
REPORT

Subject (in full) Arrest of William Maxwell Bickerton, a British subject,
by the Tokyo Police.

Made by D.S. Umemoto.

Forwarded by

John S.

I forward herewith a translation of a Dentsu telegram,
dated May 21, published in the Shanghai Nichi-Nichi Shimbun
of May 25 concerning William Maxwell Bickerton, a British
subject, who was arrested by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police
on a charge of being concerned in Communist activities in
Japan.

His photograph, which ^{was} also published in the paper, is
attached.

D. S. Umemoto
D. S.

File 22
Officer i/c Special Branch.

William Maxwell Bickerton, a British subject,
arrested by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police on
a charge of being concerned in communist
activities in Japan.



The Shanghai Nichi-Nichi Shimbun, dated May 25, 1934.

In connection with the so-called "Lynch Case" of the Japanese Communist Party, an English teacher of the First High School in Tokyo named William Maxwell Bickerton, 33, has been arrested by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police. In April, 1933, when he was granted leave by the School Authorities he donated a sum of yen 300 to a member of the Japanese Communist Party for communist activities. Bickerton returned to Japan in September, 1933. As the person to whom he had given the money had been arrested by the police prior to his return, Bickerton interviewed an employee of the Sanseido Book-store named Matsumoto in the vicinity of his residence at Kayagasaki Cho, Koza Gun, Kanagawa Prefecture. He promised to donate yen 100 monthly to the Party and immediately handed to Matsumoto yen 100 as contribution for the month of September. Thereafter, he used to meet Matsumoto at the Senbikiya Fruit Parlour in Ginza, Kyobashi Ku, Tokyo, on or about 25th day of every month until January, 1934, when communications became disrupted owing to the arrest of Matsumoto and other members of the Party by the Police. His total contributions to the Japanese Communist Party through Matsumoto amount to yen 500. The contribution for the month of September was delivered by Matsumoto to Kazehaya, the October contribution to Y. Nofo, the November and December contributions to T. Ohata alias Furukawa (the victim in the Lynch Case) and the January amount to M. Akikusa.

When Bickerton was granted long leave he did not proceed to his home in New Zealand but went to Moscow via Siberia,

whence he continued his trip to London via Berlin. He stayed in London three months. He returned to Japan via Suez. During his stay in London, he made arrangements to despatch left-wing publications such as the International Press Correspondence, the Communist International to Matsumoto and the person to whom he had given yen 300. Up to the present 40 copies of the International Press Correspondence, 10 copies of the Communist International and 10 copies of the Rondeshow (?) have been received by Matsumoto and forwarded to the Japanese Communist Party to be used in its propaganda work. Important articles in the "Red Flag", the organ of the Japanese Communist Party, which Bickerton received from Matsumoto were translated into English and contributed to the International Press Correspondence, the Communist International, etc. through a certain well-known woman socialist in London.

In October, 1933, Bickerton was asked by Matsumoto to become a member of the Japanese Communist Party. He submitted an application for membership but as the leaders of the Party have been arrested his application has not yet been dealt with.

Bickerton was born near Christ Church, New Zealand. At the age of about 15 he read the Manifesto of the Communist Party and later studied books by Engels, Marx and Lenin. He was appointed Secretary to a free debating society which was organized by a radical professor in Victoria University. He visited Japan in August, 1924 and worked as English teacher at various schools making a monthly income of about yen 600. He studied Japanese literature and became interested in the proletarian movement in Japan. He read the Red Flag, the Proletarian Science, the Proletarian Literature, etc. issued by the Japanese Communist Party. Two large book-cases in his

residence were found to be filled with all kinds of left-wing books. He sympathized with the proletarian movement in Japan and translated the "Crab Ship" by Kobayashi and nine other novels with the object of introducing to the world glimpses of proletarian life of Japan. He also read many pro-communist books in English. In 1930 when he went to America on leave he called on Michael Gold at the Massey Publishing Co. and exchanged views on the situation in Japan and the United States. He made arrangements for the publication of his translations by the International Publisher. Not satisfied with reading only pro-communist literature, he bought many books dealing with the theory of communism published by the American Communist Party and commenced an earnest study of the communist doctrine on his return to Japan.

SHANGHAI 8493

S. B. R. G. I. T.

No. D 5774

Date 23/5/34

THE CHINA PRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1934

Red Charges Made Against W. Bickerton

Professor Alleged To Have Donated Towards Japanese Communists

TOKYO, May 21.—(Reuters).—The ban against publication of news relating to Professor W. M. Bickerton, who was recently held under detention by the Japanese authorities on a charge of participating in Communistic activities, was lifted today.

It is stated that the professor, who is attached to one of the leading Japanese universities, made a donation of 300 yen to the Communist Party in April, 1933, out of the allowance given him by the

government for expenses while on furlough.

It is also alleged that he spent his furlough in Moscow, Berlin and London instead of in New Zealand, where he is reported to have kept Japanese Communists supplied with propaganda and to have published short stories dealing with Japanese proletarian life through Martin Lawrence, of London.

The professor is accused of having brought back to Japan a large quantity of inflammatory literature and to have donated 100 yen a month to Japanese Communists ever since his return from furlough in September, 1933.

These donations, according to the police, "went a long way to help the strained finances of the communists."

Among his other offences, Professor Bickerton is charged with having urged Japanese students to join radical organizations.

52/
Note and p.c.
to file.

JNR 23/5.

No. D 5774

Date 30 / 4 / 34

**PROF. BICKERTON I
RELEASED****New Zealander Who Was
Arrested In Japan
As Communist**

TOKYO, April 28.—Professor W. M. Bickerton, the New Zealander whose arrest for alleged communist activities leaked out at the end of March after a reported detention of more than 10 days, was released on bail to-day.

On April 11, as the result of a preliminary examination, the Metropolitan police indicted the professor on a charge of conspiring to disturb public order. The police declared that he assisted the communist party with funds for writing and distributing pamphlets and that he also applied for membership.

Professor Bickerton subsequently denied some of the charges against him, but the police, who had confiscated a number of his personal papers, claimed that they possessed a certain amount of incriminating evidence.—Reuter.

File
PR

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
C. & S. B. REGISTRY.
No. D 5774
Date 13 / 11 / 34

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1934

INDICTMENT OF A NEW ZEALANDER

Prof. W. M. Bickerton Is
Accused Of Disturb-
ing Good Order

SAID TO HAVE AIDED
JAPANESE REDS

TOKYO, April 11.—As the result of the preliminary examination, the metropolitan police indicted Professor W. M. Bickerton, New Zealander, on a charge of conspiring to disturb public order.

The police declared that Bickerton assisted the communist party with funds for writing and distributing their pamphlets and that he also applied for membership.

The date of Bickerton's trial has not yet been fixed.

The news of the arrest of Professor Bickerton, a teacher in a Japanese high school, leaked out at the end of last month, at which time it was reported that he had been detained since March 18. He was charged with communist activities and the charges stated being very grave.

Professor Bickerton subsequently denied some of the charges against him, but the police who had confiscated a number of his personal papers, claimed that they possessed a certain amount of incriminating evidence.—Reuter.

Case Raised In Commons
LONDON, April 11.—The case of the arrest and imprisonment in Tokyo of Professor William Maxwell Bickerton, was raised in the House of Commons to-day.
Sir John Simon, the Foreign Secretary, stated that Professor Bickerton was suspected of Communist activities, and he added that, according to the understanding of the British Embassy in Tokyo, the police examination had now concluded and the case would be handed over to an examining judge.

Both the Ambassador and the Consul, Sir John declared, were following the case and would do all they possibly could to protect Professor Bickerton's interests.—Reuter.

JP

Reg. Passed to you.
SSR 14/4
S 2
See & pass
to file
JR

Memorandum.

Shanghai, April 9, 1934.

To, Deputy Commissioner, S. B.

Regarding the arrest of W. K.

2BR 9/4.

W. H. Mumford
D. S.

2024

No. **D** 5774
Date 7/1/4 1934

BRITON IN TROUBLE WITH JAPANESE

Charges Of Communistic Activities Against W. M. Bickerton

TOKYO, March 30.—According to a police report to the Japanese Foreign Office, the New Zealander, W. M. Bickerton, has been detained since March 13. He is charged with communist activities, and the charges are regarded as "grave."

Although Mr. Bickerton denies some of the charges against him, the police have confiscated a number of his personal papers and claim that they possess a certain amount of incriminating evidence.

The police deny that they have resorted to third degree methods for the purpose of extracting a confession from Mr. Bickerton, and they promise to expedite the examination.

The news of the arrest of Mr. Bickerton, a teacher in a Japanese government higher school in Tokyo, leaked out three days ago, when it was reported that he had then been detained for some time. The police, however, were most reticent when questioned in the matter.—Reuter.

Reg
Any file on him?
JR?

DS. Unrecorded
DBR 9/4

(1) Sir. No record.
Aby 7/4

(2) Cent. Reg. No record. She 7/4

(3) Bureau Reg
Any record please? No Record
Aby 7/4

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Jas Johanne
Circulate any
information
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No. D

5774

Date

1 4 1934

BRITON ARRESTED IN TOKYO

School Teacher Held For
Alleged Communist
Activities

POLICE ARE RETICENT WHEN QUESTIONED

TOKYO, March 27.—A Briton named W. M. Bickerton, a teacher in a Japanese government higher school in Tokyo, is being detained by the Japanese police on a charge of "conducting communist activities," according to information leaking out to-day.

The arrest of Mr. Bickerton is believed to have taken place some time ago.

The police were very reticent when questioned to-day on the matter, and refused to give details or to state whether the trial was impending.—Reuter.

22/5
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BR